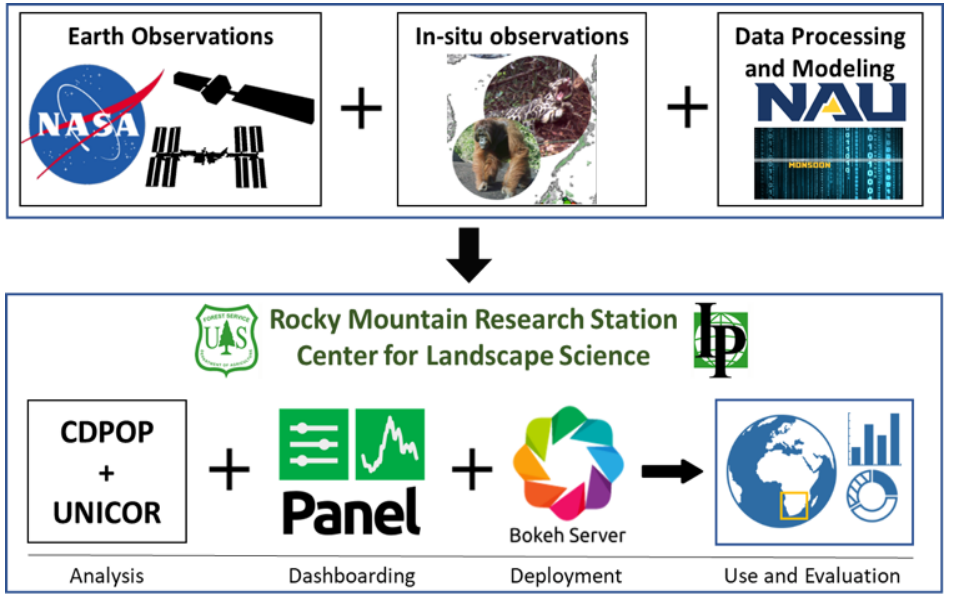
Jantz–New Connectivity Tools for USFS International Programs

Patrick Jantz, School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems, Northern Arizona University
Scott Goetz (NAU), Żaneta Kaszta (NAU), Beth Hahn (USFS-IP), Sam Cushman (USFS), Kathy Zeller (USFS), Erin Landguth (U. MT), David Macdonald (U. Oxford), Nyambe Nyambe (KAZA), Saw Htun (WCS), Andrew Loveridge (Wildcat Trust)

1. We are partnering with USFS International Programs (IP) to develop web-based decision-support tools to assess protected area connectivity in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

2. Tools developed by this project will use remote sensing, camera traps, and state-of-the-art connectivity, population dynamics, and genetics models to quantify protected area contributions to connectivity for priority wildlife species.

3. A notable component of our approach is the use of Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) lidar with extensive WildCRU camera trap observations to improve estimates of connectivity for species dependent on structurally complex forest habitat.



4. USFS-IP provides technical expertise on protected area management via partnerships with host country agencies and NGOs. Our tools will inform partner decisions by evaluating specific scenarios which reflect actual land use, development, and conservation options available to them.